Forest Act

1161. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the purpose of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 is to minimise the div rsion of forest land for non-forest purposes ;

(b) what is the number of proposals under Forest (Conservation) Act that are pending in respect of medium/minor irrigation projects in Gujarat;

(c) whether it is a fact that considerable period lapses before the necessary permission is granted by the Ministry ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that existing irrigation potential created through construction of reservoirs is not being fully utilised, due to dalay in according permission under the Act, for the off taking canals ; and

(e) whether Government have received any proposal from the States for delegation of any powers to them under the Act and the decision Government have taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 14 such proposals under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are pending with the Central Government.

(c) and (d) After the receipt of the proposal in the prescribed format alongwith all the material information required for the disposal of the case, a decision is taken on merits expenditiously by the Ministry.

(e) No such formal proposal has been received for delegation of powers.

National Land use and Wasteland Development Council

1162. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: SHRI N.E. BALARAM]:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a National Land Use and Wasteland Development Council to develop five million hectares of such land per year; and

(b) if so, when the scheme was launched and the achievement thereunder so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) The National Land Use and Wastelands Development Council was established in May, 1985 with a view to placing proper emphasis on the twin objectives of proper land use and development of wastelands. The Council is the highest policy planning and coordinating agency for issues concerning the health and scientific management of the country's land resources. It oversees the work of the National Wastelands Development Board in the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the National Land Use and Conservation Board in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Under the 20 Point Programme, the National Wastelands Development Board is the nodal agency for coordinating and monitoring afforestation, tree planting and wastelands development activities in all the States and Union Territories. The targets for this purpose are fixed from year to year on the basis of allocation of funds. The targets and achievements during the Seventh Plan period are given below —

(Area in million hectares)

	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
Targets	1·45	1·71	1·80	2·00	1·68
Achievements	1·51	1·76	1·78	2·12	1·72

With effect from 1990-91, the targets and achievements are being worked out on two parameters-namely (a) "Seedlings Distribution" for planting on private lands and (b) "Area Coverage" of public lands, including forest lands. The target